

Appl. No. 10/756,870
Amdt. Dated 10/14/04
Reply to Office Action of 7/15/04

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. The examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 1,359,213 to Welch. Applicant respectfully submits the examiner has mischaracterized the Welch reference.

Welch discloses a plurality of reinforcements (16, 22) which the examiner equated to the plurality of hasps claimed by the present invention (see independent claims 1, 7 and 12). Applicant respectfully submits the reinforcements disclosed by Welch (16, 22) differ from the claimed hasps of the present invention because Welch's reinforcements are integral with, and formed as part of, the non-linear locking members (10, 12). Conversely, the claimed hasps (23) of the present invention are secured to the plurality of locking members as separate and distinct members and are not integral therewith.

Should the examiner find applicant's response to be unpersuasive, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to consider the presently amended independent claims 1, 7 and 12, which have been amended to include the recitations of dependent claims 3, 8 and 13, respectively. Applicant believes such independent claims are not taught nor made obvious by the prior art of record. In particular, applicant claims, inter alia,

—one said plurality of locking members comprises
a plurality of elongated sections pivotally
connected to each other for allowing said device to be
engaged about a landing gear shaft having an oblique
shape—

The examiner has stated Welch discloses one of its locking members (10 and 12) has a plurality of elongated sections (10 and 12) pivotally connected to each other for allowing the device to be engaged about a shaft having an oblique shape, as required by Applicant's amended independent claims. Applicant respectfully submits the examiner has misinterpreted Welch because Welch's elongated sections (10 and 12) were previously defined as locking members 10 and 12 (see examiner's initial office action, page 2, lines 5-6). Accordingly, Welch does not disclose one of its locking

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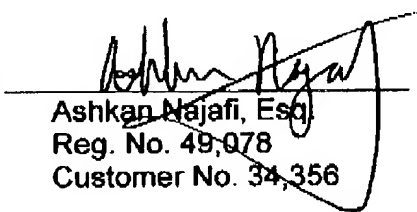
members as having a plurality of elongated sections. Furthermore, no remaining prior art of record discloses a locking member comprising a plurality of elongated sections pivotally connected to each other.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims should be considered as no longer tenable. All pending dependent claims necessarily include the recitations of their independent claims and therefore are also in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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